

Eagle

GLEN C. SANDERSON

ONE DAY BALD EAGLE COUNT

February 17 or 18, 1973

Again, most of the Mississippi River from its source to below St. Louis, as well as a portion of the Wisconsin River and all of the Illinois River from Ottawa to Grafton was covered. Kentucky was again covered by the Kentucky Ornithological Society. In some of the other areas that came in, some good coverage was made in Nebraska, mostly by the Big Bend Audubon Society. The area from Bellevue to Warsaw, Iowa was again covered by cars and an airplane. Careful comparison was made. In some of this route cars are better but over most of the area the plane does best. Peter Petersen did the plane counting. Dr. L. H. Princen handled the Illinois River coverage. The St. Louis Audubon Society with 125 people counting again led all groups. A total of over 450 people took part. These were Lockmaster, Fish & Wildlife and Game Management personnel as well as many Bird-watchers. My thanks to all.

LOCATION	ADULTS	IMMATURES	NOT AGED	TOTAL
Lock & Dam 3 thru Lock & Dam 11	122	24	1	147
Lock & Dam 12 to Lock & Dam 19	322	87	0	409
Lock & Dam 20 to Pool 22	27	8	0	35
Pool 22 to below St. Louis	88	43	8	139
Illinois River	66	70	6	142
River Totals	625	232	15	872
River percentage	73%	27%		
Illinois Wildlife Refuges	26	23	0	49
Kentucky	12	24	7	43
Totals	663	279	22	964
Percentage	70%	30%		
Other Reports				
Missouri	4	1	0	5
Nebraska	128	39	11	178
Totals	132	40	11	183
Percentage	76.7%	23.3%		

Golden Eagles — 3 adults and 4 immatures in Illinois Wildlife Refuges.

Also on Feb. 24 — 1 adult and 2 immatures at Whitewater Refuge in Minnesota.

Comments: Most observers reported the coldest December on record. January and February was mild with ice leaving the river. This dispersed the eagles greatly. The day before the count it dropped to 5 above and Saturday morning, the 17th, it dropped to 15 below. Sunday was warm with much fog. This was the temperatures at Moline, Ill. and this type of weather seems to be true for the complete river. Much floating and shore ice formed until the brief cold snap. This, with the new snow, brought the eagles back to the prime fishing areas on the river. The few spots that were checked on both days showed more eagles Sunday.

The reverse was true in Kentucky where bays and inlets were frozen due to cold weather.

One adult Golden Eagle was found in the state, a week later 3 were found. In Missouri 100 miles of the Missouri River was covered by the Columbia Audubon Society and only 1 eagle, an adult, was found. The coverage was from Glasgow to Hermann.

Two suggestions have been made, one that we move the count up one week so as not to interfere with the three day holiday for Washington's Birthday. The second suggestion was to hold the count on one day only and that day be Sunday. In most years the count with a choice of either day did not work too much of a hardship in working the data. This year it made quite a difference. Please send me your comments.

Elton Fawks
510 Island Ave.
East Moline, Ill. 61244